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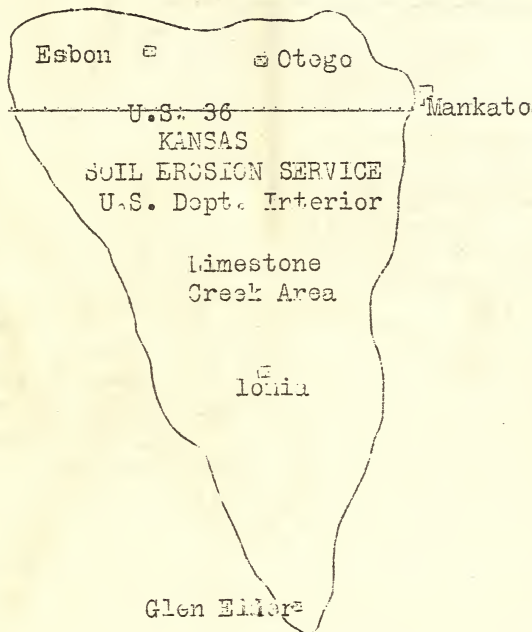
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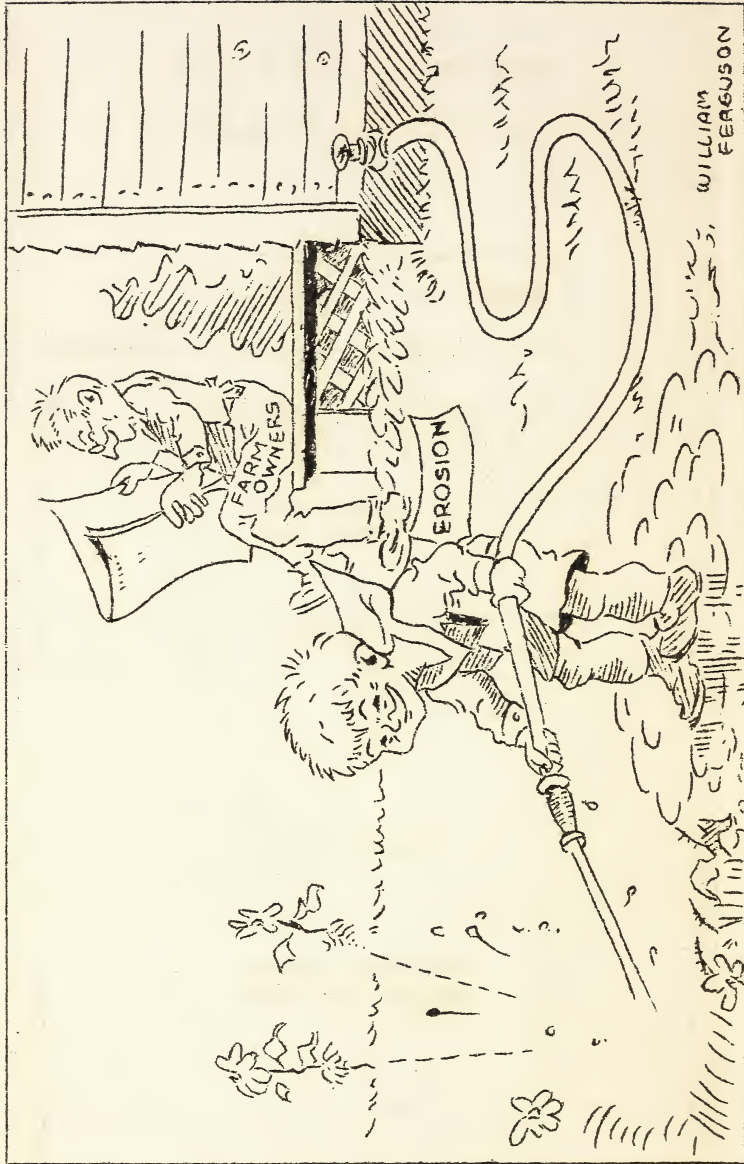
U. S. Department of Agriculture

TIMELY TOPICS
ON
SOIL EROSION



Mankato, Kansas
August 30, 1934

BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THE KID —



"NEWS BULLETIN"

We are sending out this news letter to our cooperators in order that you may keep in closer touch with the Soil Erosion Service and its activities. We will be glad for any suggestions or ideas that would make this Service more beneficial.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Agronomy and farm management work has been progressing very nicely for the past few weeks. If you have neighbors who have not had an opportunity to have their farms planned we suggest that you have them get in touch with the Erosion office in Mankato or with one of our field-men. Cooperative Agreements have been signed on approximately 90 percent of the farms worked by the agronomists.

The Soil Erosion Service will be glad to make changes in agronomy plans so that more wheat may be planted this fall for pasture, provided the increase conforms with the AAA program.

The suggestion is made that summer fallowed land which was to have been seeded either to alfalfa or pasture mixture this fall, be shallow listed on the contour and allowed to lay over the winter in this manner. This will tend to prevent soil blowing and will conserve a maximum amount of moisture. The seeding can then be done next spring.

BRUSH DAM CONSTRUCTION

In order to spread work and to get a necessary job done, approximately 100 men are being employed temporarily to build brush dams. Gullies may be stabilized by the construction of low brush dams and sloping the sides of the old channel. The dams prevent further cutting of the bottom of the gully, while sloping the channel sides makes it possible to establish a sod cover-

ing over the entire cross-section of the old water course. The amount of fill is dependent upon the amount of loose soil coming in at the head of the ditch. Of course when the land above the ditch is terraced, there will be slight filling with soil because the terraces allow very little water to enter the ditch.

Brush dams are being entirely constructed of material found on nearly every farm and there is no expense for materials. The practicability of these dams has been proven by years of use by many farmers who have been successfully holding gullies in check.

The men working on these dams work two days a week. About 35 men work at one time and are supervised by two foremen and one engineer. The foremen are in direct charge of dam construction and securing brush and posts for the work. The engineer selects sites for the dams and decides the size and type of dam for each particular location.

It is planned to do this work over the entire area. This will require a large amount of material. It is often possible to find enough posts and brush on the farm to build the dams required, but occasionally this is not possible and material has to be hauled to the job.

The brush dam crews will cut out any brush or hedge for the material, and anyone wanting brush or hedge cleaned out can get in touch with the Soil Erosion office. This work will be done at no cost to the farmer, except the material cleaned.

CONSTRUCTION WORK

The construction forces of the Soil Erosion Service swung into action this past week. The construction crews are 6 in number. Each crew is composed of 3 tractor operators, two grader operators and a foreman. The equipment consists of two outfits, each of which has three 50 H.P. Diesel engines, an elevating grader, a blade grader with a 12 or 14 foot blade, a multiple hitch Killifer disc and a 2-yard rotary

The crews work in 7-hour shifts, three shifts per day, six days per week. One outfit of equipment starts to work at 12 o'clock midnight and works until 9 that night. The other outfit starts to work at 4 in the morning and works until 1 o'clock the next morning.

The time from 9 to 12 at night and 1 to 4 in the morning is utilized by the mechanic and helper in making minor repairs, fueling and greasing machinery for the start of the day's work.

The terrace is constructed with the elevating grader making 4 to 6 plow cuts above and below the terrace leaving the soil material in a windrow. Two rounds with the blade grader is then made, each cut moving the soil toward the terrace. The final operation is the shaping and smoothing of the terrace with the multiple disc. The rotary Fresno is used to fill low places in the terraces.

SOIL EROSION SURVEY

A detailed Soil Erosion survey is in progress covering the entire Limestone Creek drainage area. There are two men on this work and to date they have completed Esbon township and are working in Odessa township. Each man takes a section at a time and covers it thoroughly on foot, making a detailed map showing the loss of surface soil, steepness of all slopes, soil types, ponds, springs, gravel pits, limestone quarries, gullies, drainage-ways and fences.

About 65% of the drainage area consists of loessial (wind blown) soils, 28% of residual soils and about 7% bottom land.

A survey of the drainage area at the first of this year shows the following:

Gullied	8.5%	Medium Erosion	41.8%
Little Erosion	12.6%	Severe Erosion	29.5%
Bottom 7.6%			

CCC CAMPS

Three CCC camps are now assigned to the Soil Erosion Service. The newest camp arrived at the Ionia site on the Walter Dietz farm Monday, August 27. This is a junior camp, composed of men eighteen to twenty-five years old.

The Esbon camp is moving to their new location in the south-west corner of Burr Oak. The relocation of the Esbon camp and the locating of the new camp at Ionia, together with the camp at Lebanon, gives the Soil Erosion Service a work unit in the three corners of the Limestone area. This arrangement will reduce the travel time materially, leading toward a more efficient use of men.

SUMMARY OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Agronomy plans have been made for 306 farms, representing 76,551 acres.

3,500 acres seeded, or to be, to alfalfa.

2,900 acres seeded, or to be, to sweet clover.

500 acres seeded, or to be, to permanent grass.

Engineering plans made for 161 farms, representing 52,000 acres.

520 miles terrace constructed, protecting 13,700 acres.

45 percent of area protected.

326 outlet channels completed.

1120 fills made in terrace lines.

231 brush dams constructed.

600 wire check dams built.

At the present time approximately 900 men are employed in this work, including 700 CCC men.

RADIO PROGRAMS

Listen in on radio station KSAC Friday of each week at 1 P. M. for short discussions of erosion control problems.

SOIL EROSION STAFF

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